the health of the Londoner:—severest toil, miserable infrequency of social intercourse and human sympathy; dirt and disorder and crime; above his head ever hang damp vapours, surcharged with soot; around him lie scarce buried corpses and countless superfluities of filth, and at his feet rolls a stream whose pollutions he carries day by day to his lips, and whose retiring tide lays bare acres of superfœcal sludge. With one of these evils the Commissioners of Sewers are bound to deal, and no mere question of cost will avail them in their hour of failure. There are some who hope to rid their lives of the rest. All will come to pass; King Dilly-Dally will not always reign, nor this somewhat extensive city be set down a paradise of fools. When we have purified the earth beneath, and the waters under the earth, we shall look above; we shall see too if it be not possible to *ventilate* this huge amorphous structure; to diminish the evaporating surface of the Thames, and away with its mud banks; to diminish the evaporating surface of the land, and have done with its mudways; to induce or compel a more judicious consumption of fuel, and lift the pall that benumbs us. Were each one of us to burn two bushels of coke to each one hundred of coals, the latter evil would be lightened one-half, and our fires burn better. There is much to do yet for every one of us.

V. D. S, T.

## THE VERNON GALLERY OF BRITISH ART.*

The first volume of this fine work, dedicated by request of Mr. Vernon, to the British people, is now completed. It contains twenty-five subjects, including Mr. Pickersgill's truthful portrait of the munificent donor, engraved by Mote. E. Landseer, Callcott, E. M. Ward, Stanfield, Leslie, Gainsborough, Uwins, Constable, Collins, T. S. Cooper, Roberts, Turner, E. W. Cooke, Etty, Maclise, Creswick, Wilkie, and Webster, are ably rendered in the line manner, by Beckwith, Bentley, Bacon, Cousen, Staines, Stocks, Wallis, Willmore, Challis, Jeavons, Portbury, Kernot, Greatbach, and Phillimore. Turner's "Venice" (admirably engraved by Willmore) comes out beautifully; Creswick's "Way to Church" (by Bentley) makes a glittering and beautiful print; and Landseer's "High Life" and "Low life" are exceedingly well engraved by Beckwith. Uwins' "*Chapeau de Brigand*," David Roberts' staircase in "Burgos Cathedral," E. W. Cooke's "Dutch Boats in a Calm," and Callcott's "Dutch Ferry," are our other favourites.

There is a want of subjects of high purpose and earnest thought in the collection; but that is not the fault of the work before us, nor will we now enter into the question which it involves. If "The Vernon Gallery" have the sale it deserves, it must be very large.

## GREENWICH BATHS AND LAUNDRIES COMPETITION.

Thirteen competitors sent in designs in reply to the advertisement of the Greenwich commissioners for building baths and washhouses. From these, three were selected, and ultimately the choice fell on a set marked *Junius*, found to be the work of Mr. Robert Ritchie, of Greenwich. We ran down on Wednesday to see the plans, and had written a few notes upon the matter, but in consequence of strong representations from two of the competitors at the moment of going to press, we postpone the expression of any opinion.

Prize Medals for the International Exhibition.—Her Majesty's Commissioners for Promoting the Exhibition of 1851, have given notice that three prizes of 100*l.* each will be given to artists for the three most approved designs for reverses of the bronze medals to be awarded at the exhibition, and that three prizes of 50*l.* each will be given for the three best of those not chosen for that purpose.

* Engravings from the works of British artists in the National Gallery, presented to the nation by the late Robert Vernon, Esq., 22nd December, 1847. Published for the proprietors, Marlborough Chambers, 49, Pall Mall.

## Miscellanea.

Institution of Civil Engineers.—On Tuesday, March 26, Mr. W. Cubitt, President, in the chair, the first paper read was a "Description of the Chapple Viaduct, upon the Colchester and Stour Valley Extension of the Eastern Counties Railway," by Mr. P. Bruff. This viaduct was thrown across the valley of the Colne, at Chapple; it consisted of thirty-two semi-circular arches, each of the span of 30 feet, the total length being 1,136 feet, and the extreme height from the foundations to the rail level being 80 feet. The average height of the piers from the foundation to the springing was 45 feet; they were 27 feet 3 inches wide by 4 feet 10½ inches thick, at the under side of the impost, and tapered downwards to the plinth, with a batter of 1 in 36; twenty-three of the piers only had plinths, which consisted of a set-off of 2½ inches, making the dimensions of the base of these piers 29 feet 6 inches wide, by 7 feet 1 inch thick. The piers were solid below the plinth, but above that level there was a centre opening 6 feet in width, arched at the top and the bottom. The whole of this viaduct was constructed of bricks made in the district, being chiefly set in mortar; but the arches for a distance of 4 feet 6 inches above the springing were set in cement. The viaduct occupied about twenty months in construction, and cost about 55*l.* per lineal yard. The next paper read was "On the Manufacture of Malleable Iron, with the results of Experiments on the Strength of Railway Axles," by Mr. G. B. Thorneycroft.

Provincial.—It is proposed to erect a new market for corn and cattle on the now almost cleared site of the old gaol at Chelmsford. ——The Wisbech Council have had a proposal from Mr. F. Uttling, surveyor, to supply them with an accurate map of every block of building in the town, on a scale of one chain to the inch, for a contribution of 30*l.* towards the expense. The council could not see the utility of such a map.——The Bill for the new Victoria Docks, in the Essex marshes, opposite Woolwich, has not been opposed. The cost is estimated at 400,000*l.*, and with warehouses, 1,500,000*l.* Mr. Elmes, architect, and others gave evidence as to the requirement of such docks, and Mr. Rendel, on behalf of the Admiralty, is shortly to report.——A window, as a memorial to Lieut. Waghorn, is to be erected in Snodland Church, Kent.——The little town of Llanelly (Carmarthen) has at once subscribed 120*l.* 6s. towards the international exhibition, and hopes to add a hundred or two more.——The south side of Aston Church, says the *Birmingham Journal*, is about being restored, under Mr. C. W. Orford's superintendence.——A new Roman Catholic Church, in the Decorated style, is to be erected on Snow-hill, Wolverhampton, at a cost of about 8,000*l.*——The Duke of Grafton is said to have found a Roman villa, near Paulerspury, on the Watling-street-road: his grace's labourers watch the treasure night and day.——Above 2,000*l.* have been subscribed for rebuilding All Saints', Manchester.——A tomb and headstone to the memory of two Edinburgh medical students, cut off by cholera, at Hull, while battling with it there in the exercise of their professional duties, has been designed by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, and executed by Mr. Wilson, at the expense of fellow-students.——A subscription has been opened for the restoration of a stained-glass window in the old church of Morpeth. The Earl of Carlisle, the rector, and others have already contributed.

Wortley Union Workhouse Competition.—For Wortley Union Workhouse twenty-two designs were sent to the guardians; and from these they have selected, as being best adapted for their requirements, the drawings bearing the motto "*Si fortuna juvat*," which are the work of Messrs. Aickin and Capes.

Clear Space for St. Paul's.—At a recent meeting of the City Sewers Commission, Mr. Haywood, the surveyor, presented a report entirely favourable to the projected improvements, and Mr. Barber mentioned that some of the canons and minor canons of the cathedral had expressed a desire to see it carried out.

Marlborough House and the National Gallery.—Our suggested appropriation of Marlborough House is to be, at all events temporarily, realized. In reply to a question put by Mr. Ewart in the House of Commons on Monday evening, Lord John Russell said it was the wish of the Government that the National Gallery should be devoted to the collection of national works of art, including those left by the late Mr. Vernon, as well as those left by the bequests of other persons; at the same time it was impossible not to see that, having given the Royal Academy privileges with the view of founding a national school of art, it was not only due to the Royal Academy, but also to the country, that they should have the means of maintaining that school. The Government, therefore, thought it right before they asked the Royal Academy to give up their part of the building, to propose a grant for the purpose of enabling them to find some other erection; and the Government intended to bring in a Bill in the course of the present session for that purpose. The House was aware that Marlborough House had, since the death of the Queen Dowager, reverted to the crown, and her Majesty had been graciously pleased to declare that for the present, and for a few years to come, that mansion might be used for the exhibition of the Vernon collection, together with any other pictures that might be presented to the nation.

Route of the Overland Mail to India.—On the eve of publication, an opportunity was afforded us to see a moving diorama illustrative of the route of the overland mail to India, which will be opened on Monday, in Regent-street. It is the joint work of Messrs. Absolon, Grieve, and Telbin, assisted by Mr. Herring, who painted the animals, and we must content ourselves at present with saying that it is one of the most beautiful exhibitions of the kind ever opened, and is most honourable to the artists named. It is exhibited in what was formerly Nash's Gallery, which has been fitted up for the purpose, under the direction of Mr. Moreing.

Dioramic Views of Australia.—"Dioramas is in," to a certainty. Mr. Skinner Prout adds his contribution in the shape of a series of dissolving views, illustrative of Australia, and convict and emigrant life. The artist accompanies them with some discourse, instructive as well as pleasant. It forms a very agreeable exhibition.

Building Fund for Institute of Architects.—The very inadequate accommodation afforded to the whole body of "British Architects," by the occupancy of the one-pair floor in 16, Lower Grosvenor-street, must, together with the fact of their increasing numbers, suggest the necessity of their arranging to obtain a suitable edifice; and in this respect they may with advantage contemplate what has been effected by the Institute of Civil Engineers, by subscriptions among themselves. I would therefore recommend the formation of a "*Building Fund*" for the purchase of a suitable site and building: there is now a vacant site in Leicester-square, well adapted for such a purpose. The disposition evinced by Government with reference to the arts affords, I think, a hope that they might be led to grant a site to further so desirable an object. The services of a gentleman as paid secretary, with a salary of 250*l.* per annum, whose time and services should be entirely and unreservedly at the disposal of the Institute, with proper offices and apartments in the building, are, I consider, essential to the best interests of the Institute.—R. L. S.

Donation of Institute of Architects to '51 Exhibition.—In our report of the proceedings of the Royal Institute of British Architects last week, we committed a mistake in stating that the Earl De Grey had taken upon himself the contribution of the 50 guineas of that body to the Exhibition of 1851. His lordship had, at the request of the council, transmitted their cheque to the treasurers of the fund, and our informant (we arrived late on the evening in question) misunderstood the terms of the acknowledgment sent by Mr. Cattley on the part of the commissioners.

Workhouse Competition, Bradford.—The premium of 30*l.* offered for the best design for a union workhouse at Bradford, has been awarded to Messrs. Atkinson, of York.

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